

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CA,

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING ARE CONTINGENCY Q AND A'S PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES RE CANADIAN/AMERICAN COMMITTEE
REPORT ON U.S.-CANADA RELATIONS AND MACEACHEN'S COMMENTS ON
REPORT. QUESTIONS HAVE NOT ARISEN. BEGIN TEXT:

COMMENTS BY CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S.-CANADA
RELATIONS:

QUESTION: THE CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS REPORTED AS
HAVING SAID IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY THAT HE EXPECTS TENSIONS
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO
INCREASE. DOES THIS REFLECT THE VIEW OF THE USG?

ANSWER: THE PRESS REPORT WE HAVE SEEN INDICATES THAT
MR. MACEACHEN WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON A RECENT REPORT ABOUT
U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS PUT OUT BY THE CANADIAN/AMERICAN
COMMITTEE. MACEACHEN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IF THE COMMITTEE
HAD CONCLUDED THAT PROBLEMS EXIST BETWEEN CANADA AND THE
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UNITED STATES AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST, HE CERTAINLY

AGREES. HE APPARENTLY SAID THAT AS CANADA GROWS ECONOMICALLY PROBLEMS WITH THE U.S. MAY EVEN INCREASE, THAT THIS IS

INEVITABLE GIVEN THE CLOSE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS HOW THE TWO COUNTRIES MANAGE THEIR PROBLEMS--IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE WITH PROPER CONSULTATIONS. WE WOULD CERTAINLY CONCUR IN THOSE COMMENTS. (FOR GUIDANCE RELATING TO THE CANADIAN/AMERICAN COMMITTEE REPORT, SEE CONTINGENCY Q AND A,S OF JULY 27--WHICH FOLLOWS.)

QUESTION: A REPORT ISSUED BY THE CANADIAN/AMERICAN COMMITTEE CHARACTERIZES U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS AS "BECOMING INCREASINGLY STRAINED" "WITH LITTLE HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT". DOES THE USG AGREE WITH THIS REPORT?

ANSWER: I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET INTO A DEBATE OVER THE WORDS USED BY THE CANADIAN/AMERICAN COMMITTEE TO CHARACTERIZE CURRENT U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS. LET ME JUST REPEAT WHAT THE SECRETARY AND OTHER LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES ABOUT THE STATE OF THE RELATIONSHIP. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AT ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH NEED TO BE RESOLVE AND ARE BEING WORKED ON. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE EXCEPTIONAL INTERACTION BETWEEN OUR TWO SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MECHANISMS FOR DEALING WITH THESE DIFFERENCES ARE WORKING WELL: GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION IS GOOD AND WE HAVE A REASONABLY EFFECTIVE PROCESS IN PLACE TO CONSULT ON DIFFERENCES AND TRY TO REACH ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF ONE COUNTRY'S POLICIES ON THE OTHER. WE ARE NOT ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL, BUT I THINK THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS FULLY APPRECIATE THAT THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE ARE SMALL IN RELATION TO THE EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT INTERESTS WE HAVE IN COMMON, BILATERALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, AND WE TRY TO RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES WITH THIS LARGER PERSPECTIVE IN MIND.

LET ME ALSO SAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR THE WORK OF THE CANADIAN/AMERICAN COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF MEMBERS FROM A WIDE SPECTRUM BOTH IN

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CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. IT HAS DONE A NUMBER OF VALUABLE, HIGH-QUALITY STUDIES ON U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE.--END TEXT. KISSINGER

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